SPORTS / A28

Wesley So stuns super GM but RP chessers bow to China

BUSINESS / B1

Crisis takes toll on Lopez, Gokongwei groups

BUSINESS / B2

Peso seen falling to 51 to $ by yearend

NEWS / A2

Comelec halts all poll protest cases for lack of funds

Fertilizer supplier has no track record–lawyer

By Alcuin Papa

ONE OF THE SUPPLIERS FOR THE GININTUANG Masaganang Ani (GMA) program only started supplying fertilizers in 2004, the same year the P728-million fertilizer fund scam occurred at the Department of Agriculture.

Lawyer Harry Roque told the Inquirer

FERTILIZER A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, November 15, 2008 ★★ 17 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 341 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Filipino wins top Asian literary prize

A NOVEL BY FILIPINO AUTHOR Miguel Syjuco, that touches on 150 years of often turbulent Philippine history, has won a major Asian literary prize, organizers said.

Syjuco was awarded the second annual Man Asian Literary Prize for "Ilustrado," a debut novel that begins as a murder mystery and expands into a family saga.

"This is a life-changing experience for

FILIPINO A4



HOME FREE. Though he looks cornered in this photo shot after the 9-hour grilling at the Senate on Thursday, Bolante is home. JOE GALVEZ

Senate to summon Yap, Lorenzo for next hearing

By Michael Lim Ubac and Amy R. Remo

JOCELYN "JOC-JOC" BOLANTE may have given what senators described as "unbelievable" testimony on Thursday but he tagged past and present officials of the Arroyo administration as possible keys to the mysteries of the P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

Under questioning by members of the Senate blue ribbon committee, Bolante said the senators should also grill other Department of Agriculture (DA) officials—Luis "Cito" Lorenzo (a former secretary), Arthur Yap (a former undersec-

SENATE A20

Bolante spends quiet day in Alabang home

By Marlon Ramos and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ON HIS FIRST DAY OF FREEdom, Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante left his house in posh Ayala Alabang for parts unknown.

Bolante was escorted by his guards—members of the Office of the Senate Sergeant at Arms and of the Police Security Protection Group—when he left at around 1 p.m. yesterday "to meet somebody," a source told the Inquirer without elaborating.

No member of his immediate family was with him when he set out, according to the source who asked not to be named for lack of authority to speak with the media.

The former agriculture undersecretary who fled to the United States in 2005 to evade summonses by the Senate was

BOLANTE A20



CHUMMY. Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia and Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap exchange greetings after a MOA signing for the recovery of a DA property.

'Euro general' surrenders

Senate resumes probe of PNP fiasco in Moscow

By Michael Lim Ubac

ON THE EVE OF THE RESUMPtion of the Senate inquiry into the "euro generals" controversy, retired police Director Eliseo de la Paz formally surrendered to the chamber yesterday.

De la Paz turned himself in to Sen. Panfilo Lacson who brought him to the Office of the Senate Sergeant at Arms, Jose Balajadia Jr.

"I'm here so I can testify tomorrow," was all that De la Paz told reporters. He and his lawyer Noel Malaya turned down requests to be interviewed.

Balajadia appealed to TV crews and reporters to allow De la Paz to rest for the night.

De la Paz wanted to go home yesterday and return for today's hearing, but Balajadia said he would be safer at the Senate.

The Senate ordered the arrest of De la Paz to force him to appear at the hearing today on the so-called euro funds controversy. He failed to show up at the initial hearing on Oct. 23 called by the foreign affairs committee chaired by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Earlier, Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Verzosa ordered the filing of criminal and administrative charges against De la Paz and the eight PNP officials who joined a delegation to the 77th Interpol General Assembly in St. Petersburg, Russia, in early October.

On their way out of Russia, De la Paz, the group's disbursement officer, was detained at the Moscow international airport for carrying 105,000 euros (P6.9 million) in undeclared cash in excess of the allowable limit.

It was later revealed that De la Paz was

'EURO' GENERAL A17



THE SENATE security guys are busier than usual as they also escort retired Gen. Eliseo de la Paz (center) when he arrives at the Senate on Friday afternoon, the eve of the resumption of the probe of the case of the so-called euro generals. JOE GALVEZ

Fuel prices down P1; expect more cuts as prices still falling

By Abigail L. Ho

FOLLOWING THE LEAD OF THE smaller players, the country's major oil companies yesterday brought down prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by P1 a liter as the international oil prices continued to fall.

Melita Obillo, the Department of Energy's oil industry competition and monitoring division chief, earlier said consumers could expect more rollbacks this month in fuel and liquefied petroleum gas.

Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Chevron Phil. all implemented the price cut at 12:01 a.m. yesterday.

By 6 a.m., Total Phil. and PTT Phil. had effected their own price reductions.

The new oil players—Seaoil Phil., Flying V and Eastern Petroleum Corp.—started the wholesale rollback, announcing their price cuts last Thursday.

Seaoil said it would slash prices at

FUEL A21

IMF: RP 'less vulnerable' to fiscal crisis

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES IS "NOT IMMUNE" to the worst financial crisis to ravage the global economy in 80 years but is "less vulnerable" to it, thanks to significant fundamental macroeconomic reforms implemented over the years, a visiting International Monetary Fund mission said yesterday.

In a press briefing after an annual country review, IMF mission chief Il Houng Lee said the domestic economy may grow at a slower pace of 4.4 percent this year and 3.5 percent next year.

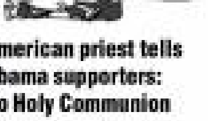
The forecast for 2008 was scaled down from the earlier IMF projection of 5.8 percent given the financial turmoil.

The latest growth forecast for this year is in line with the government's latest forecast of 4.1-4.8 percent for this year but is less optimistic than the 3.7-4.7 percent official forecast for next year.

"The global economy is facing financial turmoil at a global scale we haven't seen since the Great Depression," Lee said.

"As for the Philippines, significant

IMF A19



American priest tells Obama supporters: No Holy Communion

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA—A ROMAN Catholic priest has told parishioners they should refrain from receiving Holy Communion if they voted for Barack Obama because the Democratic president-elect supports abortion.

PRIEST A6

Church opens doors for talks on reproductive health bill

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE PHILIPPINE ROMAN Catholic Church hierarchy has opened the doors for a dialogue with congressmen pushing for the controversial reproductive health bill.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines last night said it was open to talks with lawmakers to revise the bill that seeks to implement a national program on reproductive health and family planning.

In a press conference, the bish-

CHURCH A6



ONE TOO MANY. Babies inside a maternity ward in a Manila hospital remind that the reproductive health bill is on the brink of passage at the House of Representatives. It requires the government to promote artificial contraception if it becomes law.

Second FRONT PAGE

Comelec halts all recall cases

Lack of funds cited; lawyer says move to oust Panlilio is dead

BALANGA CITY—THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS has stopped acting on all recall cases in the country due to lack of funds, effectively freezing moves to unseat local officials including Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio, according to the governor's lawyer.



GOVERNOR Panlilio with supporters.

P1-M budget

'It's dead'

Pampanga not covered?

PCGG told to explain $1-M travel expenses

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ has ordered officials of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) to explain how they accumulated almost $1 million in travel expenses in just the first six months of the year.

Defying DOJ order

Junkets

Wounded soldier taken by NPA

THE PHILIPPINE ARMY YESTERDAY SAID the abduction of a wounded soldier by the New People's Army rebels following an encounter in Compostela Valley last week confirms the terrorist tag on the organization.

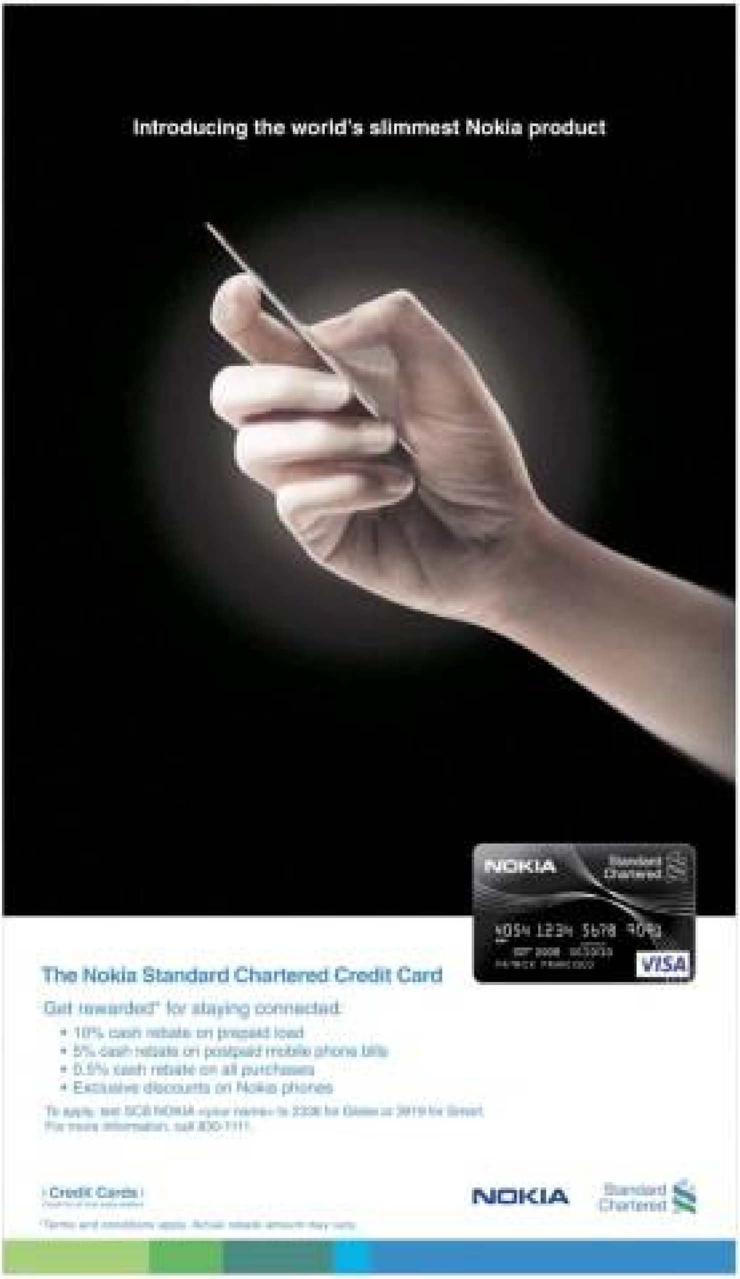




2 beauty queens read about love, environment

No stranger to reading

Buzz words



Storm, flood alerts up as 'Tonyo' nears



Giant clams coming back to RP, thanks to science



AFP wants to delay modernization


shop WITH YOUR MASTERCARD AT SM
get a chance to win ONE OF 50 PHILIPS LCD 47" TV WITH HOME THEATRE
Every ₱1,000 single-receipt purchase entitles you to avail of these offers now thru December 31
get and save 50% ON THE PRICES OF THESE ITEMS
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only P675
only P575
We've got it all for you!
SM DEPARTMENT STORE
Shop now. You could be the NEXT SM MILLIONAIRE!
MasterCard
50

Mandatory presidential debates proposed

By Kristine L. Alave



SARMIENTO: So our people can gauge the capacity, the potential and the eloquence of the candidates.

Thinking on their feet

First debate in the country

New technology

Website for new voters

Church opens doors for talks on reproductive health bill

From page A1



BISHOP Teodoro Bacani (right) speaks on the family planning bill pending in Congress during a press conference at the Pope Pius XII Center in Manila. Beside him are Archbishop Paciano Aniceto (center) and Bataan Bishop Socrates Villegas.

Fatal flaws

Moral authority

Sex education

American priest tells Obama supporters: No Holy Communion

From page A1

Bishops speak up

Catholics chose Obama

Too extreme

AP

Filipino wins top Asian literary prize

From page A1

Brilliant, stylish

'Ilustrado' in brief



"ILUSTRADO" That's the title of the award-winning novel by Miguel Syjuco photographed here in Montreal. It won the second annual Man Asian Literary Prize and $10,000.

'President's Mistress'

Booker prize

House committee to start impeachment hearing on Tuesday

Interfaith dialogue to guide GMA in peace process

Ongoing dialogue

No end to attacks

Praises

Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. [illegible]

[illegible]


Mang
INASAL
Mag-
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UNLIMITED
RICE!
ON ALL PABORITO MEALS
Mang
INASAL
Gearing towards 100 Stores
by the end of 2008!
Bacolod • Iloilo • Roxas • Metro Manila • Cebu • Boracay • Davao • Koronadal • Kalibo • Antique • Mindoro • Pagadian
Batangas • Surigao • Pampanga • General Santos • Kabankalan • Bulacan • Cavite • Baguio • Laguna • Dipolog • Tarlac
Panabo • Cagayan De Oro • Lucena • Iligan • Palawan • Ozamiz • Zamboanga • Pangasinan • Tuguegarao • Rizal


Introducing
vitwater
It's water + benefits!
vitwater
PROTECT
vitwater
vitwater
vitwater
RFM

Financial crisis to get worse before it gets better

[illegible]

Coordinated action

[illegible]

France bucks trend

[illegible]

Reuters

RP economy will remain 'manageable' in '09 despite slowdown, says World Bank

[illegible]

Strong performance

[illegible]

Improve tax collections

[illegible]

AFP

IMF: RP 'less vulnerable' to fiscal crisis

From page A1

[illegible]



HARD LABOR. The government vows to spend more on infrastructure and social services this year and in 2009 to counter the impact of the global financial crisis on the local economy.

Reduced OFW remittances

[illegible]

NFA subsidies

[illegible]

Monetary easing

[illegible]

Banking reforms

[illegible]

Hike deposit insurance

[illegible]

LIBEL CASE

Court junks bid to amend raps vs bishop

By Tina G. Santos

RP math wizards score; athletes last

By Jerry E. Esplanada

Math medalists

Improvements

Immigration tightens up on recruiters

By Kristine L. Alave

The Daily Gospel

INQUIRER

OPINION

Slowdown

EDITORIAL



The barren soil of traditional politics

PUBLIC LIVES



Randy David

A tale of two 'haciendas' and Pimentel

GET REAL



Solita Collas-Monsod

Brown face, white voice

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

Hope and change

YOUNG BLOOD

Rally Caliafong

Filipino, Pilipino and Tagalog

COMMENTARY

Ricardo Ma. Nolasco, Ph.D.

A watch in the night

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

IN THE NEWS



Barack Obama

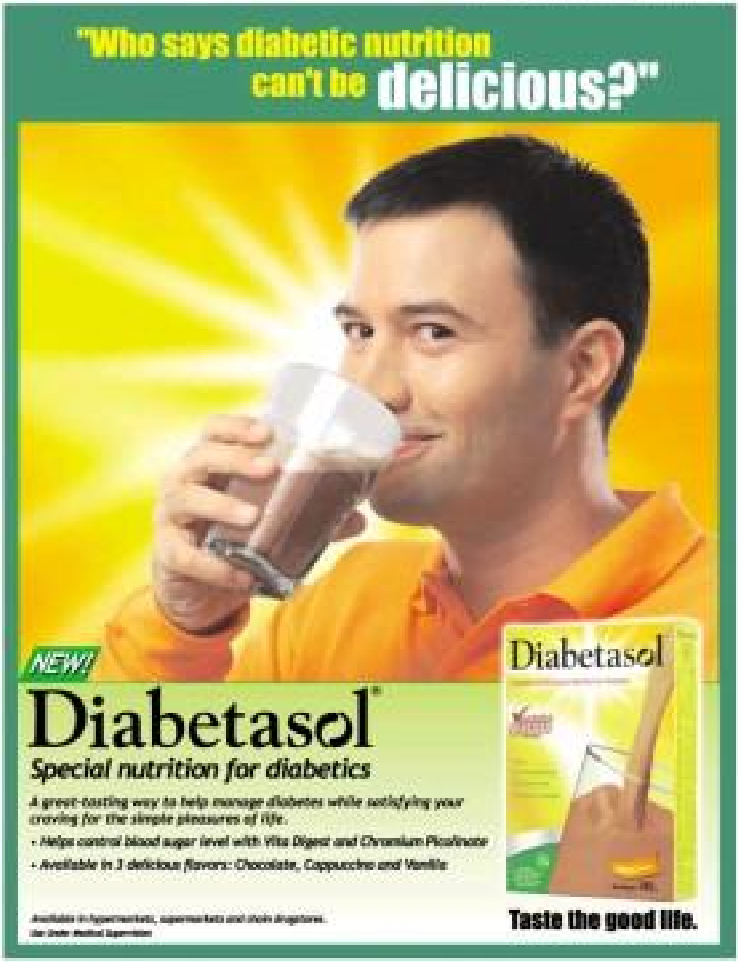
Why courts are so politicized

LETTERS

Barack Obama's ancestry traced

Another kind of burden on pensioners

2007 opposition winners shattered hope for change



Code allows but limits presents to physicians

Why Miriam lost ICJ bid



5 pro-Palace senators nix Puno, Verzosa indictment

By Michael Lim Ubac

[illegible]



MAN-TO-MAN GUARDING [illegible]



PUNO



VERZOSA

[illegible]

Entire delegation guilty

[illegible]

De la Paz prosecution

[illegible]

'Euro general' surrenders to Senate

[illegible]

Comfort zone

[illegible]

Not in hiding

[illegible]

Generals' wives

[illegible]

Undue stress

[illegible]

Across the NATION

MILF kidnaps 9 civilians in Basilan

ZAMBOANGA CITY—MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF) rebels stormed two villages in Maluso, Basilan, yesterday morning and forcibly took away nine people, sources told the Inquirer.

Suspended Bataan governor refuses to leave capitol



IN SEARCH OF FOOD

DA tried to rig fertilizer bidding, says Ifugao gov

Journalists hit media 'profiling' by military

Another union leader nabbed in Laguna

INQUIRER Visayas





Sick children find happiness at camp





Daily prayers

Letter to God



'At the camp we try to give the children the joys of childhood they normally do not get'

Surprise party

Making new friends



Senate to summon Yap, Lorenzo for next hearing



TO TELL THE TRUTH

Fertilizer supplier has no track record—lawyer

Bolante spends quiet day in Alabang home



OUT OF TOWN

Bush warns: Don't disturb capitalism



Japan offers to lend IMF $100-B lifeline fund

Fuel prices cut as international oil prices continue to fall



A plus METRO





OUTDOOR CLASS

Blast injures 10

Acetylene torch ignites drum of fuel oil in LPG seller's Caloocan compound

By Beverly T. Natividad

TEN PERSONS WERE HURT YESTERDAY MORNING in an explosion inside the compound of a seller of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in Caloocan City.

Welding job

Palace employee killed in front of own home in QC

A MALACAÑANG EMPLOYEE WAS GUNNED down Thursday night in front of his house in Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City.

Payroll money stolen by 2 men on motorcycle



Missing police blotter pages linked with seized guns case

By Marlon Ramos

Suspension of San Lorenzo barangay head sought

By Allison W. Lopez

Railways system wants to double number of trains

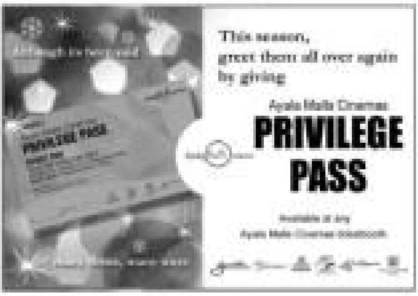
By DJ Yap

The real reason for GMA's unpopularity

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo



'Rare' case, says food firm



Brain abscess patient needs medicines



GARCIA



METROBRIEFS

Fire hits house in White Plains

2 die in shootout with QC policemen

Meteor shower on Nov. 17

Romeo R. Bautista; 71

Wyeth

Maximize your child's age of learning.

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This workshop is open only to non-pregnant women and mothers with children 3 years and older.

The WORLD

Bin Laden deeply isolated, says CIA

Spy chief says master terrorist mainly devoted to his own survival

WASHINGTON—OSAMA BIN LADEN REMAINS DEEPLY ISOLATed and has been forced to devote much of his energy to his own security, while his al-Qaida terror network remains resilient, CIA Director Michael Hayden said in a speech on Thursday.

AFP

Italy court allows mercy killing

Reuters



AN UNDATED photo of Eluana Englaro, who fell into a vegetative state following a car accident in 1992

AP

WorldBriefs

Hillary emerges as US State dept candidate

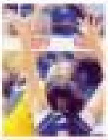
Reuters

Rare treatment cures AIDS patient

NYT

Noxious clouds fouling Asia, UN report says

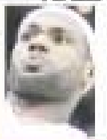
NYT



WHAT'S INSIDE

- Tigresses rally past Lady Stags in five; FEU tossers strike /A28

SPORTS



- Cavs notch 6th straight victory /A29

Giants' 'dynamic duo' strikes anew

Yap-Raymundo hammer floors Barako



BK, Magnolia gun for No. 2

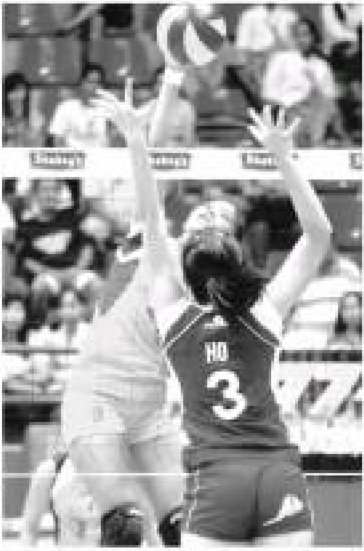
Pinoy chessers yield to Chinese

Lone victor So stuns super GM



WESLEY SO

Tigresses rally past Lady Stags, enter semis; FEU strikes



De La Hoya: Manny can't carry me in late rounds

Pacquiao, Donaire: Reaction and counterpunch

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad



SPORTSWATCH

Elorde fights tonight

Ugba 9-stag derby at SJC today

Toby's youth badminton: Escueta, Magnaye score twin victories

S.Korea, Indonesians advance to s'finals



Cavs notch 6th straight victory

Iverson, Wallace power Pistons



Els seizes share of lead in storm-hit S'pore open



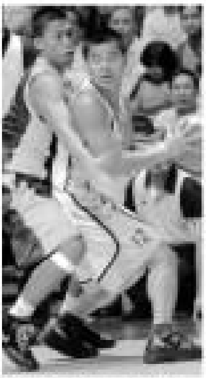
ELS

NOKIA D-LEAGUE

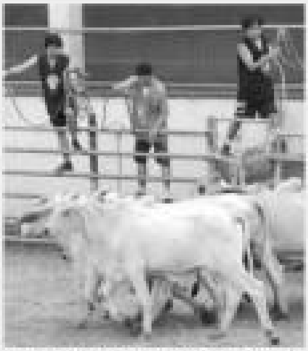
Laguna, Pampanga unbeaten

Clark Freeport hosts drag race final

Tams crush Zambo 'Eagles'



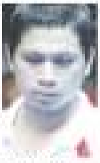
Yakult opens 10-mile race registration



SPORTS

B'mante, Gallego in q'final duel

By Roy Luarca

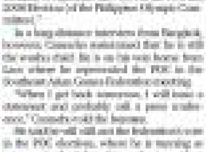


BUSTAMANTE



Camacho gets boot as wushu row worsens

By Marc Anthony Reyes



IRON LADIES

Walk-race against fake drugs Sunday

BUSINESS

Crisis takes toll on Lopez, Gokongwei groups

IN THIS ISSUE

- Peso seen falling to 51 to $1 /B2
- Gov't to cut BOP surplus forecasts /B4

Profits down sharply due to heavy forex, market losses

THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL turmoil has started taking a heavy toll on the country's major conglomerates.

CURRENCIES

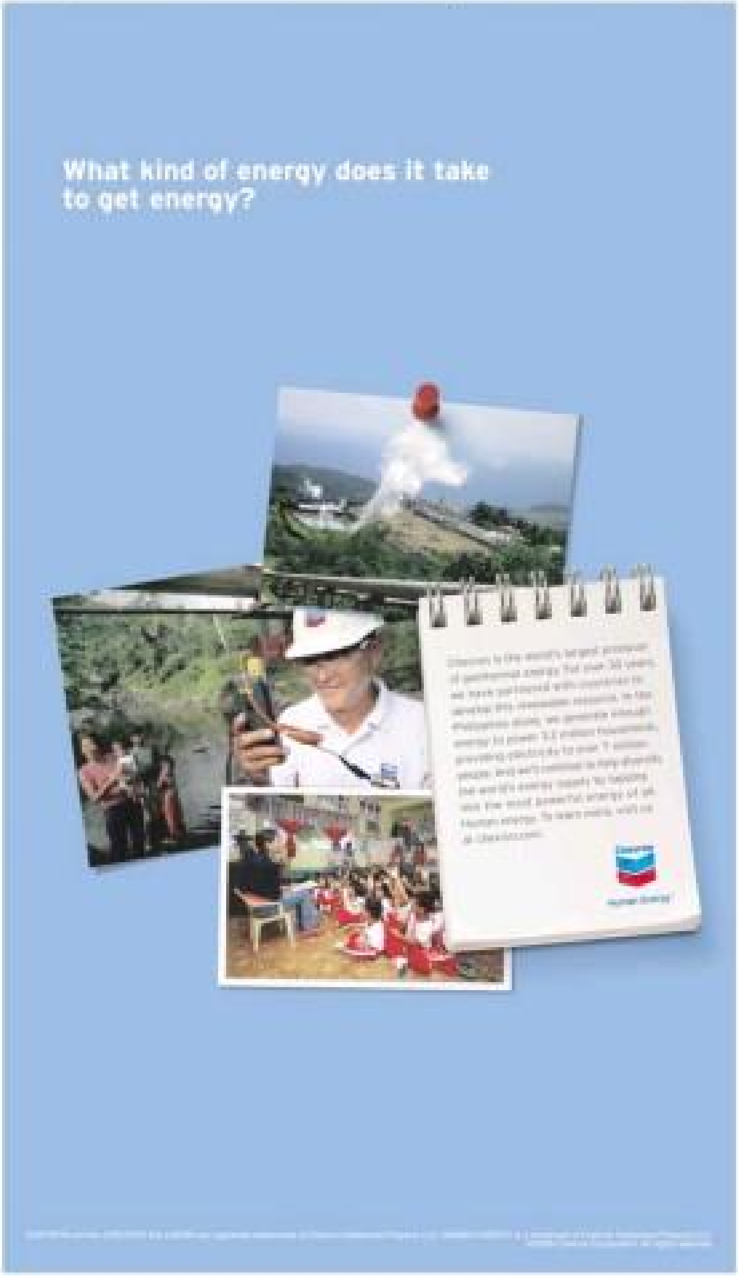


STOCK MARKET



Stocks up 3.07%

Another 3M Filipinos fall below poverty line



Peso seen falling to 51 to $1

Impact of 'deleveraging' to be felt

By Michelle V. Remo

e-Telecare Q3 net income down 67%

Customs finds new collection goal for '09 difficult to meet

Q1 'palay' output projected to increase by 6.35%

'Green' products pull Chemrez profit up

Empire East nets ₱141M



ROLL-TECH TAAI TOP ADS MOA Signing: Held last October 30, 2008 at the UCC Coffee Greenhills. ... Managing Director COMPACT ADVERTISING & DESIGN SERVICES INC. ... MEDIA INC., and ... Marketing Director of COMPACT ADVERTISING & DESIGN SERVICES INC.

Gov't to cut BOP surplus forecasts for '08, '09

By Doris C. Dumlao

[illegible]

ABS-CBN net profit up 9%

[illegible]

Megaworld to sell ₱5-B debt notes

[illegible]

Another . . .

From page B1

[illegible]

Crisis takes toll . . .

From page B1

[illegible]

Philippine Stock Exchange

[illegible]

Currencies

[illegible]

Big picture still good in China

CRUCIAL G20 MEETING

Asian shares gain, but wariness stays



Go for 'business missions,' DTI urges firms

By Abigail L. Ho



SCIENCE/HEALTH



Teaching heart care through song and dance

Ingeniously concealed

Educating

Claim to trust

DISCOVER

Similar issues in RP

Shared trust

innovations

Ensuring patient safety through pharmacovigilance



The need for pharmacovigilance

The role of the pharmaceutical industry

For more information, log on to: www.phap.org.ph

Jupiter trial hits home with a bang

MEDICAL FILES

Big boost

Shift in paradigms

PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang



THE TOURISM department is tapping some of the country's leading developers [illegible] to come here.



DURANO

DOT taps property developers to lure investors overseas

STORY ON PAGE B2-2

DOT taps property developers to lure investors overseas



Federal Land joins Gen. Trias on the road to development

Getting closer to paradise



The Exchange Regency offers a lot of amenities to residents







MANHATTAN Garden City's more than 20 amenities for its second phase has attracted many homebuyers and investors.

THE SHOPPING delights of Gateway Mall a just steps away from Manhattan Garden City.



Luxury of amenities beckons at Manhattan Garden City

Direct link

Relaxation experience





PART of the UST College of Architecture Class of 1983.

Building memories: UST Architecture '83

LIVING ARCHITECTURE



Marcus de Guzman Jr.

PLACES CAN INFUSE A LIFE OF THEIR own to certain gatherings. [illegible]

This year, the University of Santo Tomas—College of Architecture, Class 1983 holds its silver jubilee. [illegible]

Collective reminiscence

[illegible]

What they share

[illegible]

Adrenaline rush

[illegible]

Cheers to the UST Architecture Class of 1983!

For your comments and questions, please e-mail [illegible]

Super LifeStyle

style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation



Chris Brown: Superhuman

There's something extraordinary about this entertainer who's accomplished so much so fast

By Niño Mark M. Sablan

HIS NAME CAN GATHER hundreds of people in one venue. His songs can hypnotize everyone to sing along. And, of course, his sexy dance moves can make fans scream their lungs out.

Your typical boy next door? Hardly. In fact, if you think about it, there's something vaguely superhuman about Chris Brown. Consider:

HE'S ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH FOR SOMEONE SO YOUNG. He signed with Jive Records at the age of 15, came out with a self-titled debut album that topped the charts and sold millions of CDs that broke records, thanks to hits such as the totally addicting "Run It."

The first album was a smashing success, but Brown's second album, called Exclusive proves he's something better than ever in hits like "Kiss, Kiss," "Wall to Wall," "Take You Down," and "With You."

HE'S TEAMING UP WITH ALL THE BIG NAMES. Apart from working with industry biggies such as will.i.am, Bow Wow, Lil Wayne and T-Pain, Brown has also sung

CHRIS/C2



Chris Brown: Superhuman







PEEPS

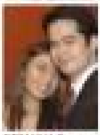
Having a brawl

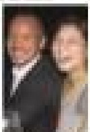
Rogue magazine's Black Tie Brawl gives the social scene an unexpected upper cut



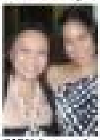




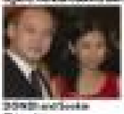


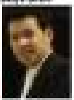


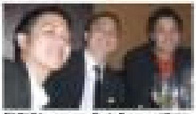


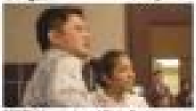


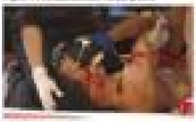








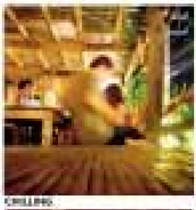






My backyard beach bar





In Laiya bar, I can pretend I'm on vacation—minus the sand in strange places



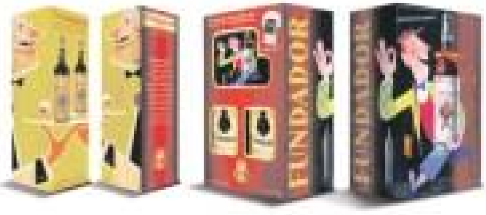


Bar Name: Laiya (Sisig Republic)

Fundador Solera: Always Open to True Friends

Now is the time to call on our *kumpares* to gather at home and enjoy Fundador Solera.

What is the occasion, you ask? Well, who said there needs to be a special reason to open your Fundador Solera!



Fundador Vintage Giftbox Collection with Vintage Design Shirts



When you're with true friends, there is always a reason to bond with Fundador. It can be as life-changing as your girlfriend consenting to become your wife, or clinching that promotion you've worked so hard for. It can also be as simple as surviving a long and hectic day.

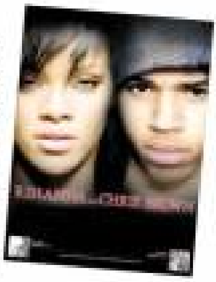
Each moment with true friends is worthy of a Fundador, the authentic Brandy de Jerez. Fundador Solera, with its brandy taste and quality, is the perfect tribute to the true friendship of *kumpares*. They deserve only the icon of true Spanish brandy.

Giving Fundador today is made more special with the limited edition Fundador Vintage Giftbox Collection. These come in four rare designs, featuring paintings made by artists from Jerez in honor of the House of Fundador. These rare artworks are also featured in the collectible vintage design shirts, free with every twin pack of Fundador Solera.

When given by a *kumpare*, the Fundador Vintage Collection Giftbox with vintage design shirts is a symbol that marks your value as a true friend. No matter what the occasion is, the Fundador Vintage Collection carries with it all the best intentions of your *kumpares*. They know what's true.

24/7 SUPER RADAR

By Janice Cuenca Davis and Red Jose



TOMORROW IS THE DAY! Get to see Chris Brown and Rihanna in the flesh at the Fort Bonifacio Open Field as they perform their songs live for thousands of their Filipino fans. You may still score some tickets. Call 891-9999.

And for the rest of the week, check out these other events in and around Metro Manila.

Two new generation artists—Ryan Suarez and Mendez Villanueva—exhibit their art at the Rockwell Club's La Souffle until Nov. 30.

Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay City hosts a bridal fair for those brides-to-be who are planning their perfect wedding. Beginnings at Taal Vista Hotel: A Bridal Dream Fair runs this weekend, Nov. 15 and 16. Apart from the displays, there will be talks on bridal trends, wedding preparations and other related subjects. While there, check out Taal Vista's new grand ballroom. For information, call +63 (2) 886-4125; +63 (46) 413-1000.

See the world through the eyes and photos of Raymond Lanchengco as Yellow Door Gallery and Power Plant Mall present Travelscapes, an exhibition of his photographs beginning Nov. 17 until Nov. 30 at the R1 Corridor of the Power Plant Mall, Rockwell. This exhibit features photographs taken during Lanchengco's travels, both as a professional concert and recording artist, and as an ordinary traveler.

Information is subject to change without prior notice. For more information on events, log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Weekend Magazine at your favorite malls, bars and restaurants. You may also text 24/7 gigs to 2951 for Globe and Sun and 2951 for Smart. Submit your schedules before Tuesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag247@gmail.com for inclusion in this column.



"CYPRESS" by Raymond Lanchengco

Super LifeStyle

Getting ready to rock and roll

After 15 years, the NU107 Rock Awards is still one of Pinoy rock's most anticipated events of the year



HOLY NUCLEAR FAMILY? Radioactive Sago Project

By Wanggo Gallaga

THE ROLLING STONES SANG it first: "It's only rock and roll but I like it." And don't we like it? Musical trends come and go. We were plagued by the mushy sweetness of acoustic music all through the early years of this decade and then half-way through we were bombarded with Bossa Nova. The musical landscape was bleak and, yes, we did blame it on the Bossa Nova, thank you very much. But the Home of NU Rock NU107 kept on playing the rock tunes and for the legions of fans of Pinoy rock, we were grateful.

Pinoy rock music is back on the center stage with a lot of bands doing well with record sales and live performances. Appreciation for it is at an all time high and this makes for an exciting year for the NU107 Rock Awards.

Fourteen awards will be handed out and the winners for some of the categories will be determined partly via online voting through the website. Who rocked it hardest this year? Well, you get to help decide.

And what's a rock award without some help from their friends? Red Horse will be awarding a special award called "In the Stars." Smart will be presenting the "U Rock College Band of the Year" and the Smart Buddy Listener's Choice Award and Nokia has their own award.

And who's going to be rocking it on the night itself? Wolfgang, Highway, The Dawn, Greyhoundz, Urbandub, Radio Active Sago Project, Pupil, Bon Bloom, Kamikazee, Sandwich, and Bamboo.

Catch the NU 107 Rock Awards on Dec 27 at the Silver City at Frontera Verde Pasig City. Gates open at 5 p.m. Get your tickets at Ticketnet (911-5555).

And the nominees are...

BEST NEW ARTIST

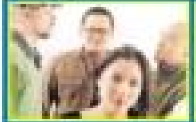
VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

GUITARIST OF THE YEAR

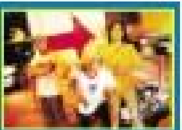


CLEAN SLATE: Rico Blanco





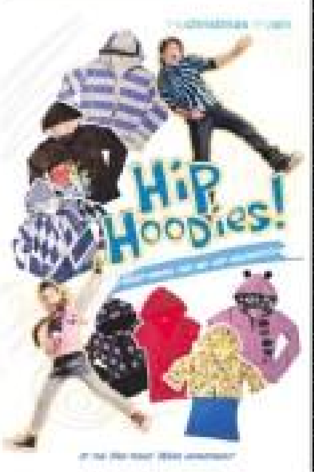


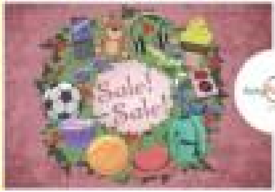


Getting ready to rock and roll









'Tis the season for the biggest bargains at Market! Market!



WHAT'S UP THIS SEASON!
LOONEY TUNES
Bright 'n merry character gift ideas from Looney Tunes
The crazy and zany Looney Tunes cartoon characters are adding a merry note to the season with gift ideas for everybody on your Christmas list.
Greetings Earthlings!
What to do? What to do? Here's some stuff to spread some cheer.
grab 'em for a WACKY HOLIDAY!
Don't sweat the small stuff... Towel hankies in set of three.
You Know, it is possible to be too attractive! Cool T's for your best buds.
Keep them cool... Tumblers for each of your BFF's.
And that's not all folks!
Fun fashion and gift ideas for the season available at the Character Shop, Children's Wear, Teens' Wear & Home World Departments at all SM Department Stores
TM & © Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

super LifeStyle

style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

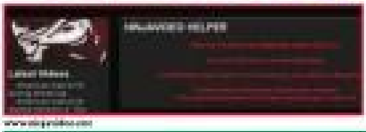
LOST IN TRANSIT



Paolo R. Reyes

Full stream ahead!

Tired of downloading your favorite US TV shows? Steer clear of the Torrent-tial storm by double clicking on these top-rated video-streaming sites



www.dayvideo.com



www.surfthechannel.com

WEB TV HAS TURNED US into still-necked and bleary-eyed "mouse potatoes," the online generation's answer to the couch potato. For these Google-savvy tube addicts, whose brains are plugged into their laptops via fibre-optic umbilical cord, the thought of missing next week's "Gossip Girl: The Magnificent Archibalds" episode is no longer the end of the world.

[illegible]

Here are Super's top-rated (and top-secret) video sites to stream the TV shows you can't get enough of.

[illegible]



www.alluc.org

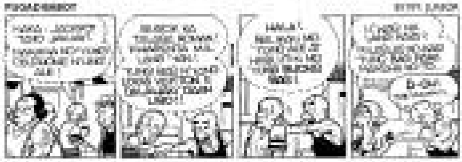


GARFIELD



A. LIPIN





DICK TRACY



LOVEBIRDS



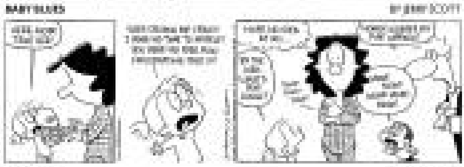
JAMES BOND



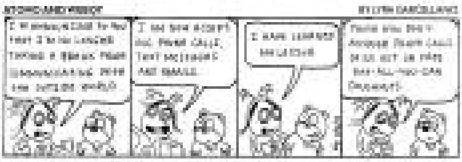
DIVINE COMEDY



BABY BLUES

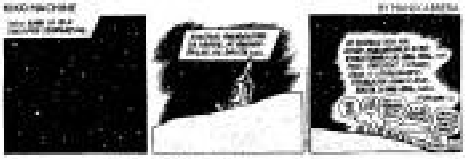


ATOMO AND ROBOT

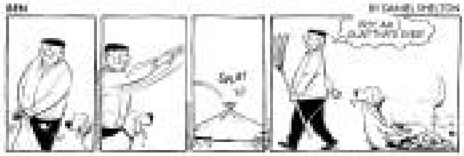


TULDOK

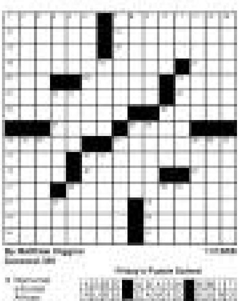


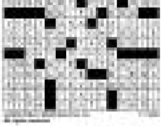


BEN



DAILY CROSSWORD





HOROSCOPE

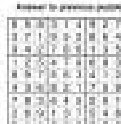
CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

			2	7				
		2	4		9	3		
	6						8	
	8						7	1
9								6
7	4						9	
	3						6	
		9	5		3	2		
				8	7			

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

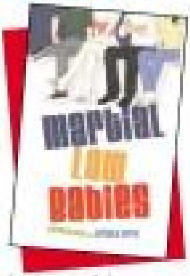


‘Babies’ boom

By Ruel S. De Vera

SOMETIMES APPROACHED like a lost tribe, a “martial law baby” is more a state of mind than a generational distinction.

[illegible]



Arnold Arre showcases his best work yet in the powerfully personal graphic novel ‘Martial Law Babies’

Love letter

[illegible]

Bittersweet

[illegible]

Best work

[illegible]


Introducing
The Grove
by Rockwell Land
The wise man builds his house on rock.
Rockwell changes what was once
old and grey into something new and green again.
See how you can build on Rockwell.
THE GROVE
by Rockwell
Along C-5, near Ortigas Avenue

Super LifeStyle

In love with the iPhone





The iPhone is finally, officially, in the country and over 14,000 people have already picked it up

Steve Jobs groupie

Fast forward

Platinum subscribers

In love with the iPhone

Hi-tech fashion





Freedom with this new phone

GARY V. HITS 25

Gary kicked off his 25th year in show business via a tribute album: GV25 by ABS CBN through Star Records, the first solo artist to receive such an honor featuring twenty five of the finest and most respected music personalities such as Sharon Cuneta, Martin Nievera, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Kuh Ledesma, Piolo Pascual, Sarah Geronimo, and many others.

Tonight, November 15, he ascends to the zenith of his 25th anniversary via a 2-night concert at the Araneta Coliseum entitled "LIVE AT 25." The 2-night concert promises to showcase Gary like he's never been featured before in performances with special guests Jericho Rosales, [illegible], Rachel Ann Go, [illegible], Gloc 9, [illegible], Philippine All Stars, G-Force and Powerplay Studio, Gabriel and Kiana Valenciano. Musical direction by [illegible] and directed by [illegible].

Like a spectacular pyrotech display, there are as much more are coming up for Gary's 25th anniversary celebration with each showcase of brilliant energy more dazzling than the previous.

GARY V LIVE AT 25 is brought to you by Globe, Nokia ABS-CBN and Araneta Center. Other sponsors are: [illegible] Myx, Magic 89.9, 90.7 Love Radio, Energy FM 91.5, Monster Radio 93.1, 101.1 Yes FM, 101.9 for Life, [illegible], Edge Radio, DZMM, [illegible], Coca Cola, Alaska, Gold's Gym, Goldilocks, Yamaha, Roland, Universal Records, [illegible], Star Records, [illegible], McDonalds, [illegible], Francis Libiran and photography by Raymond Isaac.

Check out Gary V's digital diary at http://share.ovi.com/garyv or visit www.garyv.com

For more inquiries, please call Araneta at 725-4405 local 201, Studio V 725-4614 or Ticketnet at 911-5555.

10 Years as UNICEF National Ambassador

Gary Valenciano: Hero of Filipino Children

THIS YEAR, AS GARY VALENCIANO CELEBRATES his 25th year in the entertainment industry, he is also celebrating 10 years of commitment and hard work as UNICEF National Ambassador. In December 1998, UNICEF appointed Gary as the first UNICEF Ambassador in the Philippines. Gary was singled out for his unwavering commitment to helping our disadvantaged children.

Gary's work as UNICEF National Ambassador

1998

Gary contributes his song, "Laughter All the Time" to UNICEF's Children First album.

1999

Gary visits center for abused girls in [illegible] City.

2000

Gary visits poor communities in [illegible].

2001-2002

Gary visits the island of [illegible] [illegible] campaign urging families to [illegible].

2003

Gary talks about the importance of education to [illegible].

2004-2005

Gary interacts with children in city jails and helps pass a landmark law on the juvenile justice system.

2006

Gary comforts the survivors of the typhoon disasters in Southern Leyte and Bicol, and holds [illegible] benefit concert for emergency victims.

2007

Gary delivers basic health services to Muslim villages during the Days of Peace campaign in North Cotabato.

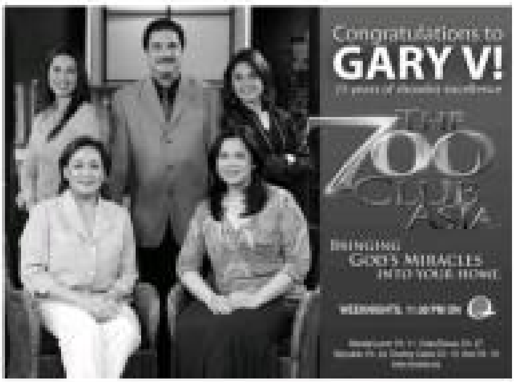
2008

Gary visits a detention center in Cebu City and a remote village in Negros Oriental.













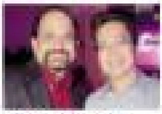
NOKIA Corporate Communications Manager Nikka Alon with myTV N96 Ambassadors Tisha Silang and Apples Aberin



NOKIA Phils General Manager William Hamilton-Whyte with Angelique Repegin



myTV N96 Ambassadors Brent Javier, David Jacob, and Jude Tumano



NOKIA Head of Marketing Sandeep Khanna with MTV's Francis Lumen

super

Freedom with this new phone





THE NOKIA N96

MOBILE AFICIONADOS have reason to celebrate as Nokia and Smart Communications, Inc. (SMART) recently launched the Nokia N96, the all-in-one device that gives you freedom to capture moments, connect to the world, live life in sync, explore places and enjoy TV on the go.

"This is our most advanced multimedia computer to date, combining outstanding video and camera capabilities, music playing, Internet connectivity and navigation and bringing it all to the next level. The pioneering dual slide design blends photo and multimedia options seamlessly so it makes discovering and sharing experiences effortless. The Nokia N96 is simply in a league of its own," said William Hamilton-Whyte, General Manager, Nokia Philippines.

"We believe that to truly extend the features of advanced, all-in-one devices, they need to be powered by innovative operator technologies—offering the Nokia N96 is a natural fit for SMART," said Orlando B. Vea, Chief Wireless Advisor, SMART.



FREEDOM F5



KELLY Misa and Karen Perschmann



MTTY N96 Ambassadors Chris Tiu and Rhian Ramos



NOKIA Business Development Manager for Smart Chinki Tiranel with Smart and myTV Brand Manager Louie Ang

LIFESTYLE



Exploring the Twilight zone



The 'Twilight' movie, which is set to hit local theaters on Nov. 26, is sending fangirls into a frenzy

FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS, blogs have been filled with the endless talks about "Twilight," the movie based on the first book of the bestselling series by Stephenie Meyer—fan art, trailers, music clips of "Bella's Lullaby," you name it.

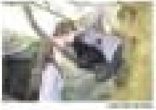
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Exploring the Twilight zone

















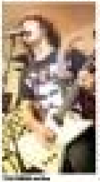






'Twilight' tidbits

How originally Filipino is Ateneo band's music?



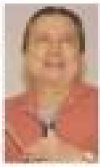


Secret keeper

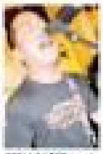


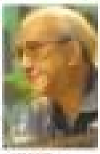


JOURNALISM DEFINED, dissected and discussed by the country's most respected.













2bU LifeStyle

The real deal on Pablo Banila



The infamous internet 'stalker' speaks out–he was never your stalker because he didn't really view your site to begin with

NO, HE'S NOT A CYBER-stalker. Or a group of psychology students doing a project. Or the government in disguise. Pablo Banila is a real person, but he's not the crazy lowlife that people thought he was.

Where to Stop Where to Go

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

European wild game festival at The Tivoli



Plan your Microtel Boracay trip now





Seafood specials at the Waterfront Manila Pavilion

Martini time at Astoria Plaza



Renaissance Hotel appoints its new director of marketing



The real deal on Pablo Banila



Tours, Leisure & Chow

Café Jeepney goes to Laguna Batangas and Quezon





TRY CAESAR'S COFFEESHOP FOR A SATISFYING GOURMET EXPERIENCE

8 Waves Waterpark goes beyond summer



Delightful vacation in Davao



A unique twist to Filipino food

Home for the Holidays

CROWNASIA

A Vista Land Company



CELEBRATE LIFE IN ALL ITS SPLENDOR EVERY SINGLE DAY AT CROWN PONTICELLI.

FIND FULFILLMENT WITH YOUR FAMILY FOR AS LOW AS P21,712/MONTH.

Crown Asia knows that nothing holds greater fulfillment than bringing happiness to the ones we love. That's why our thriving Italian-inspired community, Ponticelli, features finely-crafted homes not only rich in stylish detail, but infused with a passion emblematic of Crown Asia.

With modern amenities, artful landscaping and a genuine feeling of warmth and comfort throughout, Ponticelli is the perfect backdrop for a future filled with moments worth celebrating, with those whom you value most of all.

ponticelli

(02) 837-1402 • (02) 837-1406

www.crownasia.com.ph

There are other inspiring Crown Asia communities for you to see:

Presidio in Sucat • **Marina Heights** in Sucat • **Valenza** in Laguna
Fortezza in Laguna • **Venezia** in Las Piñas • **Carmel** in Bacoor • **Vicenza** in Cavite

LifeStyle

Throw a kiddie bash for grown-ups

Miss the children's parties you used to have as a kid? Go all out for the holidays with a sophisticated kid-themed party

D.I.Y.

1 Book the venue





2 Choose the food



Throw a kiddie bash for grown-ups



[illegible]

[illegible]



[illegible]



[illegible]

3 Decorate the place

[illegible]





CUPCAKES make good giveaways

4 [illegible]

[illegible]





[illegible]

5 Plan the games

[illegible]



[illegible]

A tribute to the past



Bayo uses key trends from the '50s and '90s for its holiday collection

[illegible]

Key trends:





Tartan

[illegible]



[illegible]

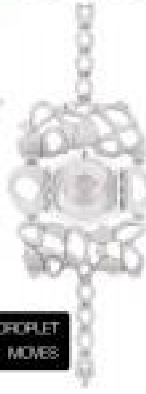


[illegible]



GLANCE-MAGIC

Girls, you better Swatch out!



By Wanggo Gallaga

SWATCH'S LATEST COLLECTION for the Fall-Winter season is all about the contemporary woman. After all, they are a far cry from the



POEBE AUSSI

DROPLET MOVES

TWIRLING TIME





STEEL FEMININE



SUITABLE WEAVE

fashion and music flash!







Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

SATURDAY *Special*

IN THIS ISSUE
Impersonation taken to the max /S4

Stone says he has no sense of malice, hatred toward Bush



BROLIN as US President George W. Bush in "W."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—"I didn't make this movie with a sense of malice, hatred or hate. I did it as a dramatist, which is just to say that my job is to understand him, not to like him."

Buffoonish charm

Beautiful job





Elements don't come together in 'Passengers'



Creepy neighbor

Revelation

Stone...

Relationships

Unknown factor

Stone...

From page[illegible]

[illegible]

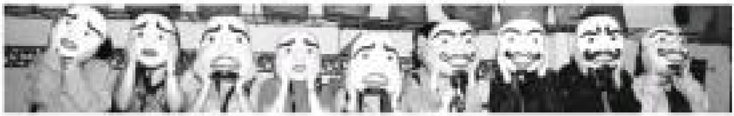
"You mentioned that you met [illegible] once. Can you tell us more about that meeting?"

I met him at a [illegible] [illegible] function in Beverly Hills when he was a governor. He was coming [illegible] because it looked like he was going to become President. He was on the [illegible] raising big money from the Republican clubs.

I met him at a breakfast, and his topic was [illegible]. I met him personally after the event, and it was a second meeting. He was very nice. He told me that he had been at Yale with me. I didn't know that. I dropped out of Yale, he finished —and we talked about the Vietnam[illegible]...

He was very friendly and charismatic, and he was a good salesman. He [illegible] with his [illegible] [illegible] on [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. He's very good with [illegible]— that's why we [illegible] that scene with the [illegible] where he meets those 50 people. It's actually based on a true incident!

E-mail [illegible] and visit his blog, "The [illegible] Report," on [illegible]



WORKSHOP students wear Angono's "Higantes" masks.

Artists' haven

ANGONO IS FAMOUS FOR ITS ARTISTS. One of them is Inquirer's editorial cartoonist, Jess Abrera, who indulges in social [illegible] through his work.

The municipality's most famous son is National Artist Carlos "Botong" Francisco, who is best known for his historical murals. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the University of Santo Tomas while working in the movie industry as a [illegible] and production designer.

Botong is considered the country's [illegible] muralist. His first important mural was [illegible] "500 Years of Philippine History." He major works include "[illegible]," "St. [illegible]" and "The Stations of the Cross." [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] trained under Botong.

[illegible] Blanco, his wife [illegible] and their eight children are all painters. The Blanco Museum in Angono houses their works.

The Higantes Festival will be celebrated on Nov. 22 and 23. I will facilitate a hands-on workshop on Photography and Documentation using the festival's dancing "giants" and the festive crowd as subjects.

A visit to the Blanco Museum will give enthusiasts a glimpse of the artistic heritage of this cultural town. Call [illegible].

* * *

Join the Mandy Navasero Summer Photo Safari on Feb. 20-23, March 13-14 and 27-28, and April 3-6. E-mail [illegible] [illegible], or drop by our office at Rm 227, [illegible] Plaza, 210 [illegible], Makati City.

STREET SMART



Mandy Navasero

At the Cinemas

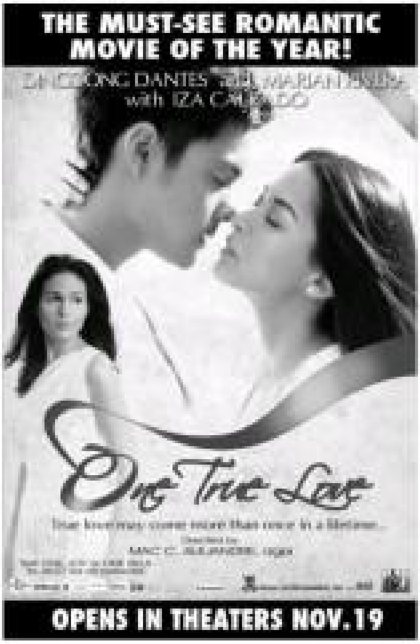
Cinema				
GLORIETTA 1	1 PASSENGERS	2 THE WOMEN	3 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA	4 MY ONLY U
GLORIETTA 4	1 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA	2 THE WOMEN	3 JAMES BOND 007: QUANTUM OF SOLACE	
	4 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3: SENIOR YEAR	5 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA	6 JAMES BOND 007: QUANTUM OF SOLACE	7 PASSENGERS
GREENBELT 1	1 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA	2 JAMES BOND 007: QUANTUM OF SOLACE		
GREENBELT 3	1 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA	2 JAMES BOND 007: QUANTUM OF SOLACE		
	3 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA	4 JAMES BOND 007: QUANTUM OF SOLACE	5 THE WOMEN	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 JAMES BOND 007: QUANTUM OF SOLACE	2 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA		
	3 THE WOMEN	4 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA	5 JAMES BOND 007: QUANTUM OF SOLACE	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 JAMES BOND 007: QUANTUM OF SOLACE	2 JAMES BOND 007: QUANTUM OF SOLACE	3 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA	4 NIGHTS IN RODANTHE
MARKET! MARKET!	1 JAMES BOND 007: QUANTUM OF SOLACE	2 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA		
	3 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA	4 THE WOMEN	5 PASSENGERS	
TRINOMA	1 MY ONLY U	2 THE WOMEN	3 PASSENGERS	4 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA
	5 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA	6 JAMES BOND 007: QUANTUM OF SOLACE	7 JAMES BOND 007: QUANTUM OF SOLACE	

At the Malls

Mall	Event
Glorietta	MIDNIGHT MADNESS SALE, November 14-16, [illegible]
Greenbelt	MICHAEL JOHNS LIVE, November 21, [illegible] Park
Alabang Town Center	MADAGASCAR 2 PENGUIN MALL TOUR, November 14 & 22, [illegible]
Ayala Center Cebu	[illegible] BEAUTY, HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR, November 13 to 17, [illegible]
Market! Market!	AUTO SHOW 2008, November 14-16, [illegible]
Cinemalaya	[illegible]
Ayala Museum	[illegible]
TriNoma	[illegible]

Nescafé Soundskool holds finals night

MONTAGE





BAMBOO: One of Soundskool's mentors.



BABAO: Launches new book.

Zonta's Christmas bazaar

Gene Loves Jezebel





SATURDAY*Special*



ALCASID: His latest album reflects a generation's musical niches and riches.

Ogie Alcasid pays tribute to OPM

By [illegible]

IT HAS BEEN 20 YEARS SINCE we first heard Ogie Alcasid's debut hit single, "Pekunan." Back then, piracy wasn't so rampant because it wasn't easy to mass-produce cassette tapes. So, Original Pilipino Music (OPM) enjoyed not just robust sales, but massive artistic growth, as well. Ogie's latest album, "The Great Filipino Song Book," reflects that era's treasure trove of musical niches and riches.

Recently we talked to the popular singer about his latest collection [illegible]. He told us that he has always been in awe of the rich diversity and unique melodic beauty of Pinoy music. He explained: "I want to help keep OPM alive—that's why you hardly hear me sing remakes of foreign standards and Hollywood-penned pop tunes. After all, we have so many lovely songs that deserve to be heard by the new generation of music lovers!"

Jukebox tunes

In the '60s and early '70s, Filipino music [illegible] didn't rely heavily on Hollywood for their musical fix. [illegible] radio-friendly ballads and slow-rock jukebox faves ruled the airwaves, so did dance tracks and love ditties with [illegible] catchy arrangements, memorable melodies and witty lyrics, like "Pekunan," [illegible]

Ogie's hefty 16-track album contains gems from that glorious musical heyday, like [illegible]

[illegible]

"When we asked the prolific singer-composer what his favorite song was in the album, he replied: "I like Vic Sotto's composition, [illegible] which was recorded by [illegible]. Vic is known more as a comedian, but he's also a talented composer."

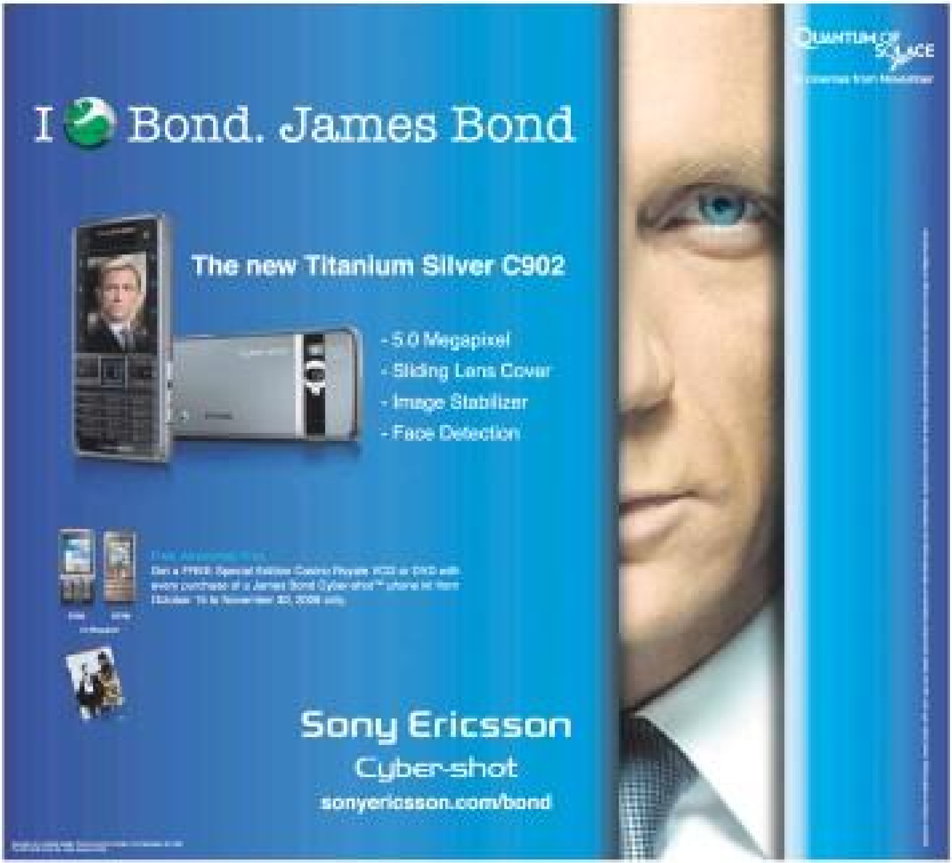
One top pick are [illegible]

The singer is in awe of Pinoy music's rich diversity and unique melodic beauty










Rustan's
SUPERMARKET
Around the World of Christmas!

Memoirs of a senator's wife



PIMENTEL. A calling to share her life and music.

Book launching

Religious references

Bad times

Composition

Impersonation taken to the max

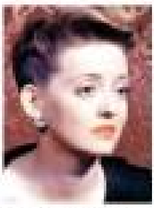


Realization

Celebrities

Process

Living the high life, Hollywood-style





RUSSELL (ABOVE) AND DAVIS (FAR LEFT). Rapid delivery of lines.

Predominant medium

European elite

Ogie Alcasid . . .

Guest singer



SATURDAY Special



Bond rebonded

By Nestor U. Tores

FOR DECADES NOW, THE JAMES BOND film franchise has projected an iconic image for its cinema secret agent. Bond, James Bond, is tough, buff and licensed to kill, but he's also handsome, sophisticated, having a connoisseur, great with the ladies, even better in bed, worldly, a man of the world, and a man's man. In other words, he's the ultimate macho character, and a prime reason why the franchise has flourished for many years.

True colors

Looking at the gallery of actors who've played Bond, we can see that the same type dominates the lineup. The original Bond player, Sean Connery, later revealed his true colors as a rough roustabout—but, when he portrayed Bond, he was slicked down and buffed up, to set the sophisticated, macho standard that held sway for decades, and led to the choice of the decidedly suave likes of Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton and Pierce Brosnan to fill Connery's iconic shoes when he'd had more than he could take of all that macho fluff and poppycock.

But, just as the Bond franchise was about to expire from sheer tedium, its savvy owners up and tapped Daniel Craig to play the secret iconic fiction character. At first, their choice of Craig was severely criticized, because he wasn't "regulation blond" and his features were more craggy than cool.

The critics became even more nervous when they learned from the grapevine that Craig was one of the better actors around—unlike many of the other Bond actors, who couldn't act their way out of a paper bag. Hey, James Bond doesn't need a thespian to play him, just a cool macho stud!

Well, the franchise's owners stuck to their guns, so Hollywood was stuck with Daniel Craig, and fretfully awaited the outcome of his first Bond starrer, "Casino Royale."

Big hit

—What do you know?, the film became a big hit, indicating that viewers approved of the new Bond actor—and his idiosyncratically different take on old 007. Unlike other Bond players, Craig was more driven than debonair, more troubled than cool. It was like Bond had been transformed into Hamlet, holding out a skull for a heroine.

Some Bond aficionados found the shift too dark for comfort, but the movie's clear success led to the production of Craig's follow-up Bond starrer, "Quantum of Solace," which is even darker and more psychologically convoluted than "Casino Royale."

This second time around, Bond goes total "rogue" agent, as he pursues both his

BOND 12



CRAIG (WITH COSTAR OLGA KURYLENKO, LEFT): The British super-spy finally grows up.

From sizzle to fizzle



TWISTER: His comedic partner is more subtle than usual.

Reactions

Delicate balance

Docu provides inspiration



SARBIDA: Full of life

Synopses

Bond . . .

Unprecedented success

CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
3 THE WOMEN
4 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3
5 PASSENGERS
6 THE HOUSE BUNNY / JAMES BOND 22
7 KURAP
8 IndieBox: WALANG KAWALA
9 CITY of EMBER
10 MY ONLY U

ERMITA

1 PASSENGERS
2 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
3 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
4 THE HOUSE BUNNY / HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3
5 THE WOMEN
6 CITY of EMBER
7 MY ONLY U
8 KURAP
9 WALANG KAWALA

METRO EAST

1 PASSENGERS
2 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
3 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
4 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
5 CITY of EMBER
6 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3
7 THE HOUSE BUNNY
8 MY ONLY U

NOVALICHES

1 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
2 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
3 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3
4 MY ONLY U

PIONEER

1 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
2 THE WOMEN
3 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
4 PASSENGERS





STA. ROSA

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
3 MY ONLY U
4 NIGHTS in RODANTHE

LIPA

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
3 MY ONLY U
4 THE STRANGERS

DASMARIÑAS

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MY ONLY U
3 STRANGERS
4 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA

IMUS

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
3 MY ONLY U
4 STRANGERS

ANGELES

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
3 MY ONLY U
4 NIGHTS in RODANTHE

STARMILLS

1 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
2 NIGHTS in RODANTHE
3 LIVING HELL
4 MY ONLY U
5 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
6 TROPIC THUNDER

BACOLOD

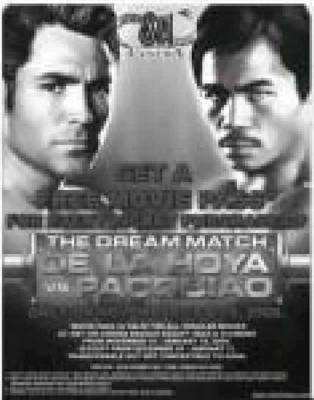
1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
3 MY ONLY U
4 STRANGERS
5 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3
6 WALANG KAWALA

ILOILO

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
3 MY ONLY U
4 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3
5 EAGLE EYE
6 THE CHANTING 2



SM CINEMA movietime



TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!

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IMAX

MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA

SEA MONSTER

THE PODIUM

QUANTUM OF SOLACE

MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA

LATE SCREENINGS

CINEMA 1

QUANTUM OF SOLACE

QUANTUM OF SOLACE

QUANTUM OF SOLACE

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ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED IN ALL SM CINEMA BRANCHES

NOW SHOWING

'Women' power buoys up comedy of manners

By [illegible]

"The Women"

D: Diane English

S: Meg Ryan, Annette Bening, Debra Messing and Jada Pinkett Smith

HOW DO YOU TOP THE STELLAR ensemble of a cast that includes Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford, Rosalind Russell, Paulette Goddard and Joan Fontaine? In her contemporary reworking of George Cukor's 1939 classic, "The Women," director Diane English doesn't even try.

Instead, the notable actresses who are known for their winsome screen appeal or acting prowess to resurrect Cukor's estrogen-powered comedy of manners in the 21st century. The performers in the updated version are nowhere near as iconic as those mentioned above, but many of them are just as talented: Meg Ryan, Annette Bening, Debra Messing, Jada Pinkett Smith, Bette Midler, Candice Bergen, Carrie Fisher and Eva Mendes.

The story revolves around Mary Haines (Ryan) and her three gossipy gal pals in Manhattan's high society. Fashion editor Sylvie Fowler (Bening), the ever-pregnant Edie Cohen (Messing) and lesbian author, Alex Fisher (Smith).

Promising future

A housewife for 13 years, Mary has given up a promising future in fashion design, only to discover that her Wall Street millionaire husband has been cheating on her—with the sexy and beautiful perfume girl, Crystal Allen (Eva Mendes)!

Mary finds solace in the nurturing companionship of her friends, but they too have problems of their own. Her best friend, Sylvie (Bening), is on the verge of losing her job as editor of a top fashion magazine, but if she gets syndicated gossip columnist, Bailey Smith (Carrie Fisher), to work for her, her job—and her publication's sagging sales—just might turn around. But, is Sylvie willing to "share" intimate details about Mary's messy domestic life and betray her friend's trust?

Sylvie and Mary's problems are by no means inconsequential, but English's light handling of the material takes a lot of the dramatic edge out of her protagonists' dire situation. Surely Cukor's Goodbye and company could share some helpful tips with these women about making compromises, not holding grudges, fighting back, getting even and moving on.

The movie lives up to its title—none of the important characters is male. In fact, you won't see any man in it at all—not even the moonlighting hubby who wreaks havoc on Mary's fairy-tale life! Interestingly, the issues women, whatever, rules to society, etc.) are just as relevant and topical as they were in the 1930s. Are women better off now than they were then?

Insight

You won't get a lot of adequate or innovative insights from the episodic treatment of each woman's story, because instead of clarifying their relationships, their identity and stories only add to the narrative clutter. For instance, Smith's role is, for the most part, decorative—she almost doesn't serve a purpose, other than add spice to the characters' racial diversity and sexual orientation.

However, it's the winsome cast that buoys up the film's predictable and somewhat dated exposition. Unsurprisingly, Ryan is in fine comic form, but it's Bening who deftly mixes drama and comedy to convey her character's anxiety, guilt and confusion.

The production's most notable performances are turned in by the irreverent Midler as a ditzy Hollywood agent, the witty Bergen as Mary's snarky mother, Mendes as the unapologetic mistress, Fisher as the manipulative entertainment journalist, and Cloris Leachman as Mary's loyal housekeeper. You don't always understand them, but you'll have a hard time taking your eyes off them!



RYAN, BENING. Play best friends in updated version of 1939 classic.